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**Howard Carter and the Tomb of
Tutankhamen III**

Lead: Howard Carter believed it was there and would not give up.

Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

Content: The rule of Egyptian Pharaoh Tutankhamen was a short one. He lived about 1350 years before Christ and died at seventeen, his rule brief, obscure and dominated by powerful advisors. He was buried and over the years the location was forgotten. Ironically, this anonymity probably saved his tomb from

plundering by graverobbers. Wealthy Egyptians would fill their graves with rich articles supposedly for use in the afterlife. Thieves and even some of the priests who buried them would take note of the tomb's location, wait a day or so, break in and clean it out.

By the twentieth century most of the tombs in the Valley of the Kings, a burial ground near the ancient city of Thebes 300 miles up the Nile River from the Mediterranean had been discovered and excavated.

Archaeologists believed the tomb of Tutankhamen had been found. A small undecorated room was discovered in 1909 close in to Thebes and most scholars working in the area were convinced this was the young King's

burial chamber. Most except Howard Carter. He was convinced that Tutankhamen's tomb was in the Valley of the King's and he and his partner Lord Carnarvon began to examine the much plundered burial ground in search of the grave.

By 1922 Carnarvon, who had been financing the venture, was ready to quit. The two partners met in the fall of the year and when Carter heard that the cash was about to be cut off, he told his friend that he himself would pay for one more year of digging. Such dedication impressed and reinvigorated Carnarvon's flagging enthusiasm and Lord George promised one more year of money to finish the final round of digging. Next

time: patience pays off and Carter finds something wonderful.

At the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.

Resources

Carter, Howard. *The Tomb of Tutankhamen*. New York, NY: Excalibur Books, 1972.

Reeves, Carl Nicholas. *The Complete Tutankhamen: The King, the Tomb, the Royal Treasure*. New York, NY: Thames and Hudson, 1990.

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